



THE VINE

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church & School Newsletter
JANUARY 2024

"Leading people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ, His followers, and His world."

Worship Tech Overhaul **Faith Comes From Hearing**

We've heard your feedback and understand that one of the biggest challenges you and our visitors face when attending worship in person or watching the livestream is participating in the service because it's difficult to see or hear God's Word, the lessons, and the beautiful music that's raised up to God in praise. With these concerns in mind, we're doing a complete and total overhaul of the audio and visual technology in the St. John's sanctuary and Faith Chapel. We're working to create an experience that is free of distractions, allowing our members, visitors, students, and families to focus on the most important element of any gathering held at St. John's: God's Word.

If you would like to help support this mission, we ask that you do so through your offerings. There are three ways you can give:

1. In person using your offering envelope
2. By clicking: Donate to St. John's Lutheran (<https://bit.ly/DonatetoStJohnsLutheran>)
3. By using the Vanco Mobile app

We ask that you notate your donation with "Faith Comes From Hearing" or "Worship Tech Overhaul" to ensure it is applied to this project.



Foundations

An Overview of the Christian Faith

What are the essential teachings of the Christian faith? What do they mean in our lives and in our world today?

Pastor Mike will be leading a nine-session overview of the basic teachings of the Christian Faith. This study in basic Christianity will cover all the essential teachings, how they fit together into one compelling story, and what they mean for our lives today.

This class is required for those who are interested in membership at St. John's. But it is also helpful for those who seek to better understand the Christian story in order to grow in their faith and be better equipped to share it with others. Throughout the class, we will be considering the major challenges to faith and how Christianity provides a better story for our world today.

If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Pastor Mike. If you would like to attend but child care is an issue, please contact Pastor Mike.

When: Sundays, from January 28 through March 24
Time: 11:00 AM (after worship)
Place: Room 10



Thank you for your faithful response to our Savior's steadfast love. Please use these envelopes, found in the Narthex in **2024**, if you prefer to place your offerings in the plate during worship services. These new envelopes will help our counting team and office staff efficiently and accurately record and credit your contributions. **Please do not use 2023 envelopes after December 31st, and do not use these new envelopes until January 1, 2024.**

For your convenience, your box contains some pre-printed envelopes for specific ministries or projects; you may use these to indicate your preference or desire to support those ministries. While we will endeavor to use the funds as you desire or suggest, we may use the gift for other purposes in the event the intended ministries, projects or purposes are canceled, oversubscribed or are no longer relevant to the mission of our congregation.

SO, WHAT'S NEW AT THE FARM?

Submitted by Ted Zimmerman

The volunteers at the Mission Farm wish to thank all the people of the congregation and from the community who gave donations to the Farm during this Holiday Season. Some did it through the ordinary donation portals of St. John's, while others through the portal provided by the CanDo's Give Guide campaign of 2023. I wish I could provide the final figures for the donations, but that won't be available until after the deadline for our submissions for publications. I just want to remind you that raising donations is not just a "cool weather" crop. It can be a warm weather crop, wet weather crop, dry weather crop . . . in other words donations are always welcome. Also offerings of time, energy, and willing bodies helping us to plant, nurture and harvest crops.



I wish I could also provide you poundage figures for our submission of fresh fruits and veggies to the CANV Food Banks this year. But that total is not available until after the deadline as well. It should come in at around 20,000 lbs.! That's a bit less than our average of the past several years, mostly due to the fact that the rains came when the stone fruit trees were in full blossom, and the bees weren't able to assist us to the degree we would have liked. Hence very few plums, peaches, apricots, and pluots were harvested this season.

I hope you got to see the coverage the Farm received in December (front page coverage no less) as part of the Napa Register's Season for Giving Series. You can't buy coverage like that! You have to earn it! Our volunteers certainly have.



St. John's Lutheran School would like to wish you and your family a Happy and Healthy 2024!

Art Attack week will be celebrated at SJL the week of January 9, 2024. Each class on campus will learn different art techniques and work with different mediums from master artists from all around Napa Valley. Make sure to watch our Facebook page and Instagram account to see the amazing works of art created this week.

We have a **Dine and Donate** on January 9th from 10 AM-8 PM at Foodshed Take Away. Twenty percent of your order will be donated to the 5th grade trip to Redwood Alliance.

I am excited to share that the **Hauch Invitational Basketball Tournament** will be happening this year! A special thank you to Matt Uffmann for all that you have done to make the HIT tournament occur. We look forward to the tournament on Thursday, January 11 - Sunday, January 14, 2024.

Our school will be hosting an **Open House** on Thursday, January 25th at 6:00 p.m. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend and see all that is happening at our school.

Many blessings to you and your family!
Dr. Christy Wood, Principal

St. John's Lutheran School Open House

For Preschool through Eighth Grade

Thursday, January 26, 2023

5:00-6:00 p.m. Prospective Families Only Please

6:00-7:00 p.m. Current and Prospective Families Welcome

Stop by any time; there is no formal presentation. Kids are welcome!

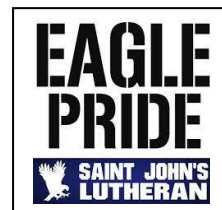
Visit the classrooms and teachers and
learn more about the specific grade-level programs at St. John's.

Come see what's happening at St. John's Lutheran School
and experience what makes it a special place for learning!

Prospective families, please R.S.V.P.

Kristin Goller, SJL Admissions: 226-7970, Ext. 125; kgoller@stjohnsnapa.org.

We hope you can join us!





34th Annual HIT Basketball Tournament

We are excited to invite you to our 34th Annual Hauch Invitational Basketball Tournament, one of the most anticipated events of the year!

The tournament will feature our **7th/8th Boys Tournament Team** and our **6th - 8th Girls Tournament Team**. Our **Cheer and Dance team** will be performing

at the tournament as well! The boys will compete in an 8 team bracket while the girls will play in a 4 team round robin. You will find the schedules attached at the end of this email.

The tournament will take place on **January 11th - 14th** in our gymnasium.

This year will feature teams from Napa, American Canyon, Elk Grove, and Bakersfield! The tournament never fails to provide intense competition, camaraderie, and unforgettable moments on the court. We are blessed with the opportunity to host this special event, and I look forward to witnessing our students and families create a spirited and welcoming atmosphere.

Admission to the tournament will be **\$2.00 for students and \$7.00 for adults per day (\$6.00 and \$20.00 for 4 day tournament passes)**. **CASH ONLY** for admission. There will be a complete snack bar with meals available throughout the tournament. Tri-tip sandwiches, homemade chili, walking tacos and teriyaki bowls are just a few of the delicious items our *Eagle Rock Cafe* has to offer!

Make sure to mark your calendar for this exciting tournament of basketball action. Join fellow parents, fans, and supporters in celebrating the spirit of sportsmanship and teamwork. Your encouragement makes a significant impact on the players, creating an unforgettable experience for everyone involved. We look forward to sharing this memorable experience with you!

Go Eagles!

Matt Uffmann
7th Grade Teacher
Athletic Director
St. John's Lutheran School

OFFERING UPDATE

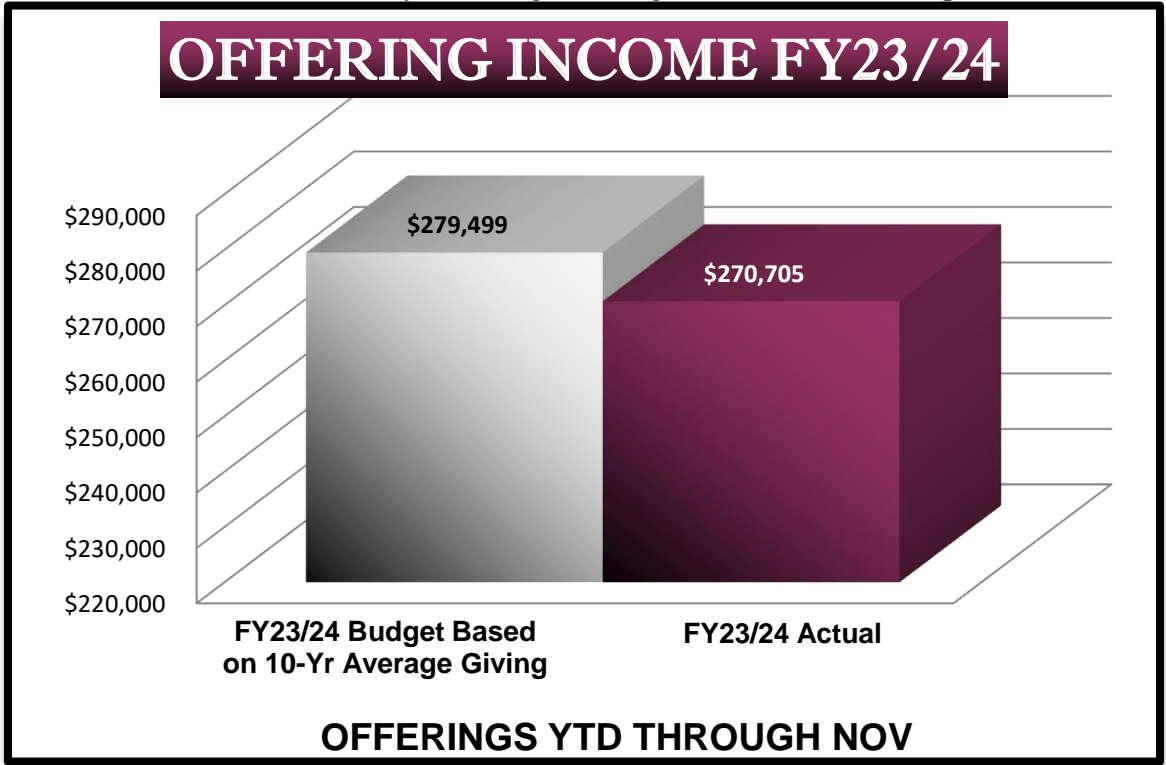
Actual Offering Income for Nov:

\$41,955.

Total Offerings for FY23/24 (as of 30 Nov 23):

\$270,705 which is **3.15%** or **\$8,794**
below our budgeted offering income.

Total expenses are in line with our budget and we paid all bills received. *The budget amount shown below is based on the ten-year average offering received for that time period.



Meditation:

“One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches?” (Luke 16:10-11)(ESV)

A New Year – New Opportunities

Each new day brings promise of a new start. For many, the start of a new week is the time to begin that diet, get serious about exercising, or forego TV viewing. For a vast majority, though, there’s something especially motivating and invigorating about seeing the JANUARY calendar on the wall. This is the year we’ll accomplish great things.

God doesn't necessarily call us to do great things, however. He asks that we be trustworthy in small things (Luke 16:10-11). To that end He gives us gifts to use to build up the Body of Christ and to reach out to the lost.

Some of us have many gifts. People like Michelangelo – painter, sculptor, and poet – and Thomas Jefferson – architect, statesman, and scientific farmer – come to mind. God, the Giver of gifts, knows that the number of gifts each of us has varies. Jesus told the Parable of the Talents pointing up this fact and teaching us that success lies in using what we've been given, not in having the greatest amount.

Our gifts also differ in degree. There are many sculptors but few, if any, compare to Michelangelo. Yet their art can bring satisfaction and inspiration to others. You may not be able to sing opera, but you can sing God's praises. You may not be a great orator, but you can witness to the love and grace of God in Christ. You may not be a mechanic, but you can provide transportation for someone needing to get to an appointment or to church.

That's why God gives us gifts and abilities – that we may be equipped to serve others. The start of a new year offers us an opportune time to assess those gifts and see how we can use them for God's glory and the good of His people. The motivation to do this comes from the same One Who gave the gifts! Just as He was motivated by love for us to give us, not just our gifts, but His greatest gift, His Son, so we are motivated by love for Him to serve those He calls us to serve.

Prayer:

Dear good and gracious Heavenly Father, You show Your love for me in so many different ways. Forgive me when I fail to thank You for all that You do for me. I thank You for Your constant presence in my life. I pray that You will grant me a loving heart that will be willing to respond to those in need. Help me to love my neighbors. In Your precious name I pray. Amen.

Adapted from "*12 Months of Congregational Stewardship*" by Ronald J. and Phyllis J. Chewning, Stewardship Advisors, Inc.

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from *The Holy Bible, New International Version*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1984.



LCC K-9 COMFORT DOG MINISTRY UPDATE

To God be the Glory!

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes on Him should not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16

December was a great month!

- Besides going on my regular visits to see my friends at Alta Heights School and St. Helena High, I got to deliver some Christmas cheer (supported, in part, to our St. John’s community) to the families at Camille Creek School!
- I also got to visit my friends at Piner’s Nursing Home and the Veterans Home, as well as one of my handler’s counseling clients.
- It was fun to attend “Shop With a Cop” again this year! I liked helping my law enforcement buddies help families in need make their Christmas a little brighter!
- I also got to provide comfort to the U.S. Coast Guard trainees in Petaluma who are away from their families during the Christmas season. They’ve chosen a life of sacrifice to protect us and our country – I’m glad I could give them a little happiness during my visit.

December was also a big month because I turned 10 years old! *I had the best birthday party ever!!* Thanks to everyone who helped celebrate with me! I had so much fun seeing all my friends, and thanks for your snuggles, scratches, and presents! I love St. John’s and my Napa and LCC Comfort Dog communities!

But most importantly, December is the time we celebrate the birthday of our most important Friend ever! God gave Jesus to us to save us from our sins. It’s been so wonderful to celebrate Advent and Christmas at our church services – praising God for His Gift and looking forward to Jesus coming again!

I can’t wait to see what 2024 has in store! Thanks for all your love and support of me and the Comfort Dog Ministry!



Thanks for your support and prayers! Please check out Facebook, Instagram, and our website for all the latest news. napavalleycomfortdogs.org

Aaron Comfort Dog



Stephen Ministry: Peace

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you...Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”

John 14:27



“Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 4:6-7 (NRSV)

Here we are, beginning another New Year! 2024 already! We’ve enjoyed a beautiful Advent and Christmas season. Time to start thinking about New Year resolutions and what 2024 might bring. Did we experience peace in 2023? Will we feel peaceful in the coming year?

Peace is a fruit of the Holy Spirit, which is given to each one of us when we receive the Holy Spirit in baptism. We receive Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-Control (*Galatians 5:22*) There are so many verses in the Bible about not being afraid, including the one above when Jesus tells his friends to accept his amazing Peace and not be afraid. When we have peace in our souls we do not need to fear anything.

Since we are humans, we tend to worry, have anxiety, feel fearful, fret, get worked up about things we can’t control. Where is peace when all the news headlines show how the world is falling apart? The answer is always God. God is in control. God loves us and wants us to have his Peace. How do we find Peace? We pray as Paul taught us in the second verse above. Pray with thanksgiving, asking God for our needs. And there is a promise that we will have God’s peace which far surpasses what our minds can understand.

Even with this promise of peace we may still feel anxious, worried, depressed, or upset about circumstances. It can help to have someone to meet and talk with, who will listen and help sort through difficult feelings. Stephen Ministers are trained to walk alongside you during rough times.

St. John’s is blessed to have 7 **peace-filled** Stephen Ministers who are available to care for those in need. If you, or someone you know, could benefit from talking with a Stephen Minister, contact Penni Cremen 707-483-9321 or Pastor Mike at the church office 707-255-0119.

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DISABILITY MINISTRY



People who have disabilities bring blessings in many ways. Often, we are moved by the spiritual testimony given through the words and actions of people who have intellectual or developmental disabilities. Virginia Flo, the Director of Volunteer Relations with the Lutherans for Life organization, shared the following account which is a wonderful example of a surprising testimony of faith:

“I received an email from Timothy, who wanted to submit an entry in our Lutherans for Life essay contest. Writing is a challenge for him so he used “talk to text” to write his essay while his mother asked questions. It turns out that Timothy, a sixth grader from southern Minnesota, has Down syndrome. I was so moved by Timothy’s essay that I gave him an award that I have used a few times over the years called the “Spotlight Award.” It is given to a student who did not win anything in our contest but who wrote an essay from a unique perspective. Then along comes Timothy. What stood out was his statement that he has “autism, Down syndrome, and Baptism. Here is his essay:

*“My name is Timothy. My name means “valued by God.” I live in Minnesota. I live with my mom, dad, and sisters—Abby and Hannah. I am in sixth grade. I like classes at school like P.E., band, choir, social studies, and Mrs. Momberg’s class. I play trombone and piano. I like to listen to Christian music in my bedroom. I like to play games with my family. I have autism, Down syndrome, and Baptism. Baptism means I’m God’s child. I love everyone. I like riding my bike. I want to travel to Waupaca so I can kayak. I like to sing to God and I lead my family in praise songs during family devotions. I love God. I was in a video with my friends. [World Down Syndrome Day Video for Kids] Lots of schools saw it. It was about World Down Syndrome Day explained for kids. God loves everybody. God loves people that are big and small. God loves people that are every age. God loves people no matter where we live. All people are special to God. The Bible says, **“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand”** (Ephesians 2:10). God has good things for each of us.*

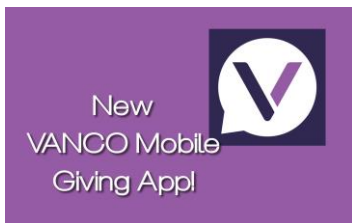
St. John’s Disability Ministry team prays that you have been moved by Timothy’s powerful description of himself as he boldly declares, “I have autism, Down syndrome, and Baptism.” May you daily remember your Baptism and that you too are God’s child and highly valued!



We are blessed to have so many young kids with us each Sunday, but we are running low on Children's Church leaders. If you are looking for a place to serve here at St. John's, I ask you to consider working in Children's Church. It's an awesome way for the kids to hear the Good News of Jesus delivered in a way suitable for them to understand and hold on to. Please get in contact with Kevin Mathison if you have any questions about getting involved. We would love to have you join the team! kevin@stjohnsnapa.org

Happy New Year from St. John's Youth Ministry to you! We are excited to see what God has in store for 2024!

Confirmation will be meeting on January 10th & 24th for Learning Events as well as January 17th & 31st for Small Group & Fellowship events.



The Give+ Mobile App from VANCO shut down 1 Oct 21 and is longer be available for download as a mobile app. The new app is called **VANCO Mobile**.

Giving through Vanco Mobile is easy! Just download the new app and create a new user profile in VANCO Mobile.

**Prayer and Praise will resume
in 2024 – Date TBD**



Prayer & Praise is a Sunday night opportunity to join together with our St. John's Family and beyond for a time of praising God through song and a time of prayer. We are super excited, so help us spread the word! Go to our **Instagram & Facebook** pages and share our post to let the Napa community know about Prayer & Praise.

St. John's Facebook Group

Are you on Facebook? Have you joined the St. John's Facebook Family Group? Please click here to join and participate in Facebook Live events, discussion and more.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/stjohnsfamilynapa>

Why join our Facebook Group? We are planning live devotional events, prayer times, as well as other interactive events. Our group is a great place to encourage one another and walk together as a family of God. In this time when gathering in person is so difficult, this is an option to fellowship together.

Also, if you have something you'd like to see us talk about or promote on social media, please use the same contact info.



Best Practices for Ministry Conference

BPM is back! BPM 2024 will take place on February 22-24 at Christ Church Lutheran in Phoenix, Arizona. Best Practice for Ministry is a free conference for pastors, church workers, and lay people. The purpose is to learn and share ideas and practices to help us grow in living God's Mission. For more information, please go to: <https://cclphoenix.org/bpm/>

As we have done in the past, St. John's will be covering lodging for all participants from St. John's, but not transportation. The conference itself is free. If you are interested, in addition to registering at the link above, please notify the church office.

Daily Bible Readings for January

	Psalm	Old Testament	New Testament
1-Jan	Psalm 1	Genesis 1:1-2:3	Matthew 1:1-17
2-Jan	Psalm 2	Genesis 2:4-25	Matthew 1:18-25
3-Jan	Psalm 3	Genesis 3, 4	Matthew 2:1-12
4-Jan	Psalm 4	Genesis 5	Matthew 2:13-23
5-Jan	Psalm 5	Genesis 6:1-7:10	Matthew 3
6-Jan	Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14	Isaiah 60:1-6	Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12
7-Jan	Psalm 29	Genesis 1:1-15	Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11
8-Jan	Psalm 7:1-9	Genesis 9	Matthew 4:12-25
9-Jan	Psalm 7:10-17	Genesis 10:1-11:9	Matthew 5:1-16
10-Jan	Psalm 8	Genesis 11:10-12:9	Matthew 5:17-26
11-Jan	Psalm 9:1-10	Genesis 12:10-13:18	Matthew 5:27-42
12-Jan	Psalm 9:11-20	Genesis 14, 15	Matthew 5:43-6:4
13-Jan	Psalm 10:1-11	Genesis 16, 17	Matthew 6:5-18
14-Jan	Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18	1 Samuel 3:1-10	1 Corinthians 6:12-20 John 1:43-51
15-Jan	Psalm 10:12-18	Genesis 18	Matthew 6:19-34
16-Jan	Psalm 11	Genesis 19:1-29	Matthew 7:1-12
17-Jan	Psalm 12	Genesis 19:30-20:18	Matthew 7:13-23
18-Jan	Psalm 13	Genesis 21	Matthew 7:24-8:4
19-Jan	Psalm 14	Genesis 22	Matthew 8:5-22
20-Jan	Psalm 15	Genesis 23:1-24:25	Matthew 8:23-34
21-Jan	Psalm 62:5-12	Jonah 3:1-5, 10	1 Cor. 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20
22-Jan	Psalm 16:1-6	Genesis 24:26-66	Matthew 9:1-13
23-Jan	Psalm 16:7-11	Genesis 25	Matthew 9:14-26
24-Jan	Psalm 17:1-7	Genesis 26	Matthew 9:27-38
25-Jan	Psalm 17:8-15	Genesis 27:1-29	Matthew 10:1-16
26-Jan	Psalm 18:1-6	Genesis 27:30-28:9	Matthew 10:17-25
27-Jan	Psalm 18:7-15	Genesis 28:10-29:14	Matthew 10:26-42
28-Jan	Psalm 111	Deut. 18:15-20	1 Cor. 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28
29-Jan	Psalm 18:16-24	Genesis 29:15-30:24	Matthew 11:1-10
30-Jan	Psalm 18:25-29	Genesis 30:25-31:21	Matthew 11:11-24
31-Jan	Psalm 18:30-36	Genesis 31:22-55	Matthew 11:25-12:8

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1	Brodie Mooers
2	Janelle Newton, Charles Scott
3	Nancy Heil, Beth Vecera
4	Kerrie Diviak, Michael Santora
5	Rebecca Hudgins, Lloyd Zuehlke
6	Tami Van Hofwegen
7	Nicholas Cromartie, Megan Schweiger, Shelby Edmeyer
8	Lucy Franklin
9	Paulette Cooper
10	Lori Gutierrez, Declan Bresee
11	Joy Dahl
12	Rita Alexander
14	Robert Klein
15	Madison Edmeyer, Midge Schneider
18	Susan Novotny
20	Bryce Powers, Ella Powers, Ashley Diviak
21	Robert Perna, Ed Mulsoff
23	Melissa Seiter, Rebecca McAhren, Heidi Newman
24	Matteo Robertis
25	Janet Peterson
27	Ben Frey, Joseph Svien
28	Tom Peterson
28	Laura Lee Fitzpatrick
29	Karen Craft
31	Ariel Winkler



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

DATE	COUPLE	YEARS
1	Tom & Laura Peterson	23
4	Matthew & Carly Bresee	10
5	Terry & Joan Gard	22
7	Shanna & Salvador Caceres	9
7	Linda & Bill Cornils	46
10	Terry & Melissa Peterson	35
14	Lauren & Ben Frey	13
18	Leslie & Tony Nicholson	33
19	Ed & Sharlene Mulsoff	60
20	Joy & Kevin Dahl	17
24	Melissa & Glen Loban	43
30	Hoag & Lois Husted	42
31	John & Tami Van Hofwegen	20





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Our weekly sermons are available on the St. John's website at: www.stjohnslutheran.net.

Visit our school website at: www.stjohnsnapa.org

Facilities Calendar Link: <https://teamup.com/ks059311afd6a21c57>



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<https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/248942728988437/st-johns-lutheran-church/>

Church

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Email: churchoffice@stjohnsnapa.org

Rev. Michael A. Schmid, Lead Pastor (ext. 122)

Mr. Tim Kramer, Business Administrator (ext. 121)

Mrs. Christy Kramer, Church Office Manager (ext. 120)

Mr. Kevin Mathison, Dir. of Youth Ministry (ext. 106) or 255-7451

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Dr. Christy Wood, Principal (ext. 103)

Mrs. Kristal Broyles, School Office Manager (ext. 101)

Mrs. Joy Dahl, Director of Preschool (107)